

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUDK: IZVESTIYA ACCUSES PENTAGON OF SABOTAGING IMPROVED
TRADE RELATIONS.

1. IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY ON U.S.-SOVIET TRADE BY
SAGATELYAN (JANUARY 23) ACCUSES PENTAGON "BRASS HATS"
OF ATTEMPTING TO SABOTAGE IMPROVEMENT IN U.S. -SOVIET
TRADE RELATIONS. SAGATELYAN SAYS DETENTE IS BECOMING
ESSENCE OF SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS, AND MAJORITY OF
AMERICANS, ESPECIALLY BUSINESSMEN, WELCOME NIXON
ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY OF EXPANDING TRADE. HOWEVER,
ADMIRALS AND GENERALS, LONG KNOWN AS OPPONENTS OF
DETENTE AND ENDING THE ARMS RACE, ARE TRYING TO USE
NATIONAL SECURITY TO HOLD UP NORMALIZATION OF TRADE
RELATIONS.

2. REFERRING TO BUSINESS WEEK ARTICLE, HE SAYS
PENTAGON IS TRYING TO BLOCK TRANSACTIONS ABOUT WHICH
OTHER USG AGENCIES HAVE NO RESERVATION. SITUATION
EVEN REACHED POINT WHERE DIRECTOR OF BUREAU OF EAST-WEST
TRADE LAZARUS HAD TO DECLARE THAT HIS ORGANIZATION IS
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JUST AS CONCERNED ABOUT NATIONAL SECURITY AS ABOUT

TRADE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST AND HE SEES NO SIGN
THAT NATIONAL SECURITY IS BEING THREATENED.

3. SAGATELYAN SAYS THAT PENTAGON DISSATISFACTION
WITH DEVELOPMENTS IS UNDERSTANDABLE BECAUSE THE "BRASS
HATS" HAVE BEEN AND ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE U.S.
MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX. PENTAGON POSITION ON
SOVIET AMERICAN TRADE HE CONCLUDES ONCE AGAIN REAFFIRMS THAT
IMMUTABLE TRUTH THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE U.S. MILITARY
CIRCLES ARE DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED TO THE INTEREST OF AMERICA.

4. COMMENT: SAGATELYAN ATTACK ON PENTAGON IS
CONSISTENT WITH SOVIET PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMMENT WHICH
TRIES TO EXPLAIN THE PROBLEMS OF U.S. -SOVIET TRADE BY
REVERSION TO THE OGRE THEORY. HOWEVER, IN CREDITING
NIXON ADMINISTRATION AND MAJORITY OF AMERICAN
PUBLIC WITH SUPPORT OF NORMALIZATION IN TRADE RELATIONS
SAGATELYAN'S ARGUMENT ALSO SUGGESTS THAT, WHILE THE
MINORITY WILL BE TROUBLESOME AND MAY DELAY NORMALIZATION,
IT IS SWIMMING AGAINST THE TIDE.DUBS

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